

## NOTES, ABSTRACTS, AND REVIEWS

## THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS AT LONDON, JULY, 1928

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[Weather Bureau Office, Chicago, Sept. 17, 1928]

The preliminary meetings of the congress were held in London, where most of the members arrived on July 13.

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 14, a reception was tendered the members by the president and council of the Royal Geographical Society at the house of the society in Kensington Gore.

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 15, there was a reception at the Science Museum in South Kensington for the members.

On the evening of Monday, 16, the lord mayor of London and the corporation of the city gave a reception and conversation at the Guildhall. Dancing followed the reception; and the Prince of Wales was present and took part on the ceremonies.

On Tuesday, July 17, the congress moved to Cambridge, where the general and sectional meetings took place in the university buildings. The meeting of the general assembly of the union was held at 8:30 p. m.

Meetings of the various sections were scheduled thereafter, with frequent receptions and excursions until the close of the congress on Wednesday, July 25.

The most important special functions at Cambridge were a dinner given by Sir Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the delegates at Trinity College the evening of Tuesday, July 24, and the reception to all the members that followed at St. John's College later in the evening; and also the award of the degree of LL. D. to Gen. Nicola Vacchelli, of Italy, retiring president of the union; Col. Sir Charles Close, president of the Royal Geographical Society of London; and Prof. Emmanuel de Martonne, of France, by the University of Cambridge, the vice-chancellor officiating.

There were in all about 30 Americans present at the congress, of which seven were official delegates, including myself. Moreover, about 40 countries were represented, but only about 20 of these were qualified to have delegates because of their adherence to the International Geographical Union.

In all, there were about 500 members listed as attending from various parts of the world.

Germany, Austria, and Hungary had not joined the union and therefore were not represented at the congress.

Papers were read by the American delegates as follows:

Col. E. Lester Jones, Chief of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, "Geographical Importance of Coastal Surveys" and "The National Geographic Society."

Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, president of Clark University, "The Physiography of the San Juan Mountains" and "A Graduate School of Geography."

Prof. D. W. Johnson, president of the Association of American Geographers and professor at Columbia University, "The Problem of Sea-Level Changes in Eastern North America."

There were also two papers read by Prof. E. L. Stephenson, secretary of the Hispanic Society of New York City,

although not an official delegate, one of which was "Early Spanish Mapping in the New World."

At the final meeting of the congress certain resolutions were offered and passed unanimously as follows:

1. For reappointment of the commission for the study of Pliocene and Pleistocene terraces.

2a. That in the countries in which the official services have undertaken surveys in regions where there are desert or sandy areas, surveys should be made, if possible, on a scale big enough to determine the characteristic features and to obtain, if possible, a close representation of the topographical features.

b. That conventional signs, allowing of incorrect interpretations being given morphologically and climatologically, should be eliminated in sufficiently known regions.

3. For the appointment of a commission for the study of "The Flora and Fauna Population of Mountains."

4. That the union encourage research and preventive measures against calamities;

Is gratified with the important cooperation which is therefore reserved for the historical and geographical sciences;

Observes that several geographical societies have already initiated the preparatory work for drawing up an historic-geographical chart of calamities;

Invites students of history and geography, and geographical societies throughout the world, to accept the responsibility of cooperation assigned to them in connection with the International Assistance Union, and to contribute with all their own organizations—

a. To the preparation of the above-mentioned historico-geographical chart;

b. To the division of continents into geographical zones of calamities;

c. To the study of the determinism of nature's scourges;

d. And generally to supply correct scientific data for the technical and preventive preparation of the work of saving populations overtaken by great natural disasters.

5. In the study of the geographical environment concerning the earliest history of man, the union proposes a resolution for the establishment of an international commission for the preparation of paleogeographical maps of the plio-Pleistocene ages.

6. A resolution is proposed that it would be of great interest, from an historical and geographical point of view, if an edition of the necessary sheets of the international 1/M map were published, showing by an overprint the extent of the Roman Empire, with its main communications and other features of its organization, at the time of its greatest expansion; and that, in order to give effect to this purpose, a commission should be appointed of representatives of the countries interested. By this means it is hoped that it may be possible to publish some sheets of this edition before the next Congress.

7. That there should be established in each European country an inventory of old maps preserved in public libraries or in private collections, and relating to its territory;

That a committee of experts should be appointed to make a selection of these documents and publish a photographic reproduction, according to the sample furnished by the *Monumenta Cartographica Italica*.

8. The Commission of the Rural Habitat proposes the resolution to establish a map of the distribution of the different types of habitat in the greatest possible number of countries. To this end, the commission has chosen some collaborators who will undertake to draw up, comment and apply the map of the types of habitat in their respective countries, according to the map of Belgium published by Dr. M. A. Lefevre.

Gen. Robert Bourgeois, of France, was elected president of the International Geographical Union at the final meeting, and Dr. Isaiah Bowman, director of the American Geographical Society of New York City, was chosen one of the vice presidents. The latter also served as chairman of the American delegation during the proceedings.

The congress, upon adjournment, decided to meet in Paris in 1931.